

Response to Amendment

This office action is in response to the amendment filed on April 23, 2009.

Claims 1-30 and 32-42 are pending for examination, claims 1, 12, 20-30 and 35-37, have been amended; claim 31 has been canceled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the attorney on record (Daniel P. Burke) on July 29, 2009.

AMENDMENT:

To the Application received on April 23, 2009 please modify the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a salary report to a self designated survey group utilizing a computer processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer processing system comprising:

at least one computer processor for processing salary data;

a storage medium means for storing salary data ~~on a storage~~
~~medium;~~

a graphical user interface means for receiving salary data;

establishing a salary survey service for storing and accessing salary data,
for a self designated group, on said computer processing system;

said establishing step comprising establishing-parameters for inclusion in
said self-designated group and job positions to include in the salary survey;

accepting memberships from a plurality of companies to the salary survey
service;

receiving, verifying and storing salary data from a plurality of member
companies on said ~~data storing means in~~ storage medium which comprises the step of
transferring said verified data from a wage information unconfirmed table to a wage
information table by transferring information comprising at least an account ID, a job
code, a job title, an average wage base, an average total compensation and an effective
date from said wage information unconfirmed table to said wage information table;

aging at least a portion of said salary data utilizing at least one annual
growth rate selected at the time of generating said report for at least a portion of said
stored salary data;

entering a plurality of parameters utilizing standard query language, said parameters comprising an annual growth rate expressed as a percentage and at least one of a geographical parameter defining at least one geographical region for said salary report, a job position, a company size designator, and an industry designator; and generating a salary report for the survey group and for said entered parameters.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein members of the survey group are from at least one of a same industry, size, profession, or geographic region.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of members of the salary service comprise companies.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of members of the salary service comprise individuals.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of members of the salary service comprise members of at least one trade association.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of accepting memberships comprises accepting contributor memberships and subscriber memberships.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of forming at least one subgroup comprising less than all of the members of said group.—

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of generating further includes the step of receiving at least one parameter defining information to be presented by the salary survey.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing Internet access to said report, wherein the step of providing access further comprises the step of providing access to only members of the survey group.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing access further comprises the step of providing access to the plurality of members of the salary survey service.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the salary data relates to predetermined job positions.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a salary report to a survey group utilizing a computer processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer processing system comprising:

at least one computer processor for processing salary data;

a storage medium means for storing salary data ~~on a storage medium;~~

a graphical user interface means for receiving salary data;

establishing a salary survey service for storing and accessing salary data, for a self designated group, on said computer processing system;

accepting salary data from a plurality of participants to the salary survey service;

receiving, verifying and storing the salary data from the participants on said ~~data storing means~~ storage medium which comprises the step of transferring said verified data from a wage information unconfirmed table to a wage information table by transferring information comprising at least an account ID, a job code, a job title, an average wage base, an average total compensation and an effective date from said wage information unconfirmed table to said wage information table;

receiving designations from the participants indicating group defining parameters for the participants to be included in a survey group, wherein said designations include geographical information;

grouping a portion of the participants into the survey group designated by a portion of the plurality of participants;

receiving survey parameters defining information to be presented by the salary survey;

providing participants with the ability to select particular job positions which are surveyed;

aging at least a portion of said salary data at the time of generating said report for at least a portion of said stored salary data;

generating a salary report for the survey group using the aged salary data; and

providing access via an Internet to the salary report.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein members of the survey group are from at least one of a same industry, revenue size, profession, or geographic region.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of members to the salary service comprise companies.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of members to the salary service comprise individuals.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of members to the salary service comprise trade associations.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of providing access further comprises the step of providing access to only members of the survey group.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of providing access further comprises the step of providing access to the plurality of members of the salary survey service.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the salary data relates to said predetermined job positions.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a computer processing system for providing a salary survey report to participants of a survey group via an Internet, said apparatus comprising:

at least one computer processor for processing salary data;

a storage medium ~~means~~ for storing salary data received from at least a portion of said participants ~~on a storage medium~~;

a graphical user interface ~~means~~ for receiving unverified salary data from participants of a salary survey service wherein said interface is operatively connected to said computer processor;

a communication unit ~~means for~~ providing access to the Internet;
said at least one computer processor ~~means for~~ verifying said unverified salary data and [[:]]

~~means for~~ transferring said verified data from a wage unconfirmed table
~~verified salary data~~ to a wage information table by transferring information
comprising at least an account ID, a job code, a job title, an average wage base, an
average total compensation and an effective date from said wage information
unconfirmed table to said wage information table;

said at least one computer processor further ~~means for~~ grouping a portion of the plurality of participants into a survey group designated by said portion of the plurality of participants[[:]] and ~~means for~~ generating a salary report for participants of the survey group.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein participants of the survey group are grouped according to at least one of industry, size, profession, or geographic region.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the plurality of participants to the salary service comprise companies.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the plurality of participants to the salary service comprise individuals.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the plurality of participants to the salary service comprise trade associations.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said participants comprise contributing members and subscriber members.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said graphical user interface ~~the receiving means~~ is further configured to receive designations indicating the participants to be included in the survey group.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said graphical user interface ~~the receiving means~~ is further configured to receive at least one parameter defining information to be presented by the salary survey.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said communication unit ~~the accessing means~~ is further configured to provide access to only participants of the survey group.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said communication unit ~~the accessing means~~ is further configured to provide access to the plurality of participants of the salary survey service.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the salary data is related to said predetermined job positions.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said at least one parameter comprises company size.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one industry.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one geographic region.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said at least one parameter comprises company size.

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one industry.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one geographic region.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of holding received data for verification and releasing said salary data after verification.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[39]] 12 wherein data which was in said wage information database table and was replaced by verified data, is archived.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[41]] 1 wherein data which was in said wage information database table and was replaced by verified data, is archived.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-30, 32-38, 40 and 42 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 12 and 20, are allowable because the prior art on record or that encountered in searching for the invention, fails to disclose or suggest the features of instant invention – a salary reporting system which transfers verified data from a “wage information unconfirmed table” to a “wage information table” by moving information comprising at least an account ID, a job code, a job title, an average wage base, an average total compensation and an effective date from the wage information unconfirmed table to the wage information table in a combination as claimed by applicant.

Claims 2-11, 13-19, 21-30, 32-38, 40 and 42, these claims depend on claims 1, 12 and 20 respectively, hence are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUSAN Y. CHEN whose telephone number is (571)272-4016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mofiz Apu can be reached on 571-272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Etienne P LeRoux/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2161

/Susan Y Chen/
Partial Sig. Examiner
Art Unit 2161

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